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In re Application of  
Bruce A. Kehr et al.  
Application No. 09/845,066  
Filed: May 7, 2001  
Attorney Docket No. 20010427

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: **OFFICE OF PETITIONS**  
: **DECISION ON PETITION**  
: **UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)**  
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This is a decision on the petition filed May 3, 2007, under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) for the benefit of a prior-filed international PCT application (Application No. PCT/US98/03933).

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition does not comply with item (1).

37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) requires that any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending nonprovisional applications must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) and indicating the relationship of the applications. The relationship between the applications is whether the subject application is a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part of a prior-filed nonprovisional application. Where a nonprovisional application is claiming the

benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of a prior national stage application under 35 U.S.C. 371, a suitable reference would read "This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/---, which was the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/DE95/---, filed ---."

Applicant's reference states this application also claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. 365(c) from PCT application No. PCT/US98/0933. However, U.S. Application No. 10/492,710 is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US98/0933. Thus the reference fails to include the relationship and refers to the PCT application rather than to the U.S. application.

With respect to the claim to the provisional applications, "...which in turn claims" does not comply with 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i). A proper reference is "claims the benefit of provisional patent application ....." When the nonprovisional application is entitled to an earlier U.S. effective filing date of one or more provisional applications under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), a statement such as "This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/---, filed ---, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/ ---, filed ---." should appear as the first sentence(s) of the description or in an application data sheet. In addition, for an application which is claiming the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of a prior application, which in turn claims the benefit of a provisional application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), a suitable reference would read, "This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 10/---, filed ---, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/---, filed ---".<sup>1</sup>

The amendment fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) and is therefore unacceptable.

Before the petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) can be granted, a renewed petition and either a Supplemental Application Data Sheet (signed in compliance with 37 CFR

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<sup>1</sup>The relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) is not required and should not be specified when a prior provisional application is being claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119(e). No relationship should be specified because whenever a priority claim to a provisional application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) is made, it is implicit that the relationship is "nonprovisional application of a provisional application." If a relationship between a prior provisional application and the nonprovisional application is submitted, it may be unclear whether the applicant wishes to claim the benefit of the filing date of the provisional application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120. Thus, applicants seeking to claim the priority to a provisional application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) should not state that the application is a "continuation" of a provisional application or that the application claims 35 U.S.C. 120 benefit to a provisional application. Although 35 U.S.C. 120 does not preclude a benefit claim to a provisional application, it is not recommended that applicants claim the benefit to a provisional application under 35 U.S.C. 120 since such a claim could have the effect of reducing the patent term, as the term of a patent issuing from such an application may be measured from the filing date of the provisional application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2). See *MPEP* 201.11

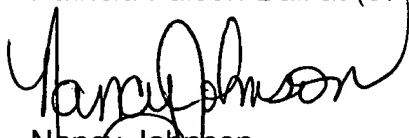
1.33(b) and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.76) or a substitute amendment (complying with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121) to correct the above matters are required.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:                      Mail Stop PETITIONS  
                                    Commissioner for Patents  
                                    Post Office Box 1450  
                                    Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By fax:                        (571) 273-8300  
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Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Patricia Faison-Ball at (571) 272-3212.



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